



The Lab Notebook

The Statue of Liberty is visible in the distance from Brooklyn Bridge Park where the NPS Centennial celebration was held on August 22.



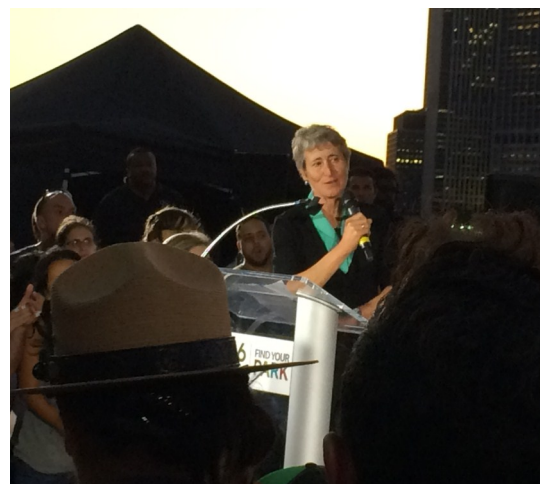
Edison Celebrates NPS Centennial



On Monday, August 22, just days before the NPS Founders' Day on August 25, the National Park Service and the National Park Foundation (NPF) hosted a major centennial event at New York City's Brooklyn Bridge Park. The event began in the afternoon and lasted into the evening, offering visitors information about the National Park System (and free ice cream). Guests used the Find Your Park Machine to determine their distance from all 412 national parks, and they explored the Centennial Station to learn more about the work of the Park Service, the NPF, and their partners. Music filled the Park throughout the day. The day was a fitting kick-off to a celebration of the Park Service's 100th anniversary and a look toward the promise of a second century.



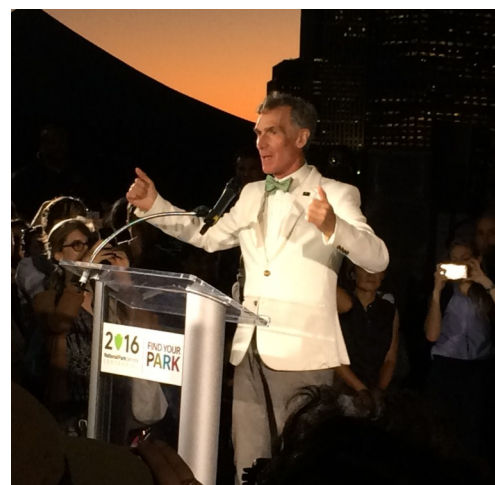
Edison staff and volunteers at the Brooklyn event.



Interior Secretary Sally Jewell welcomed visitors.



The giant digital circuit board (featuring an Edison light bulb) with the Manhattan skyline in the background.



Bill Nye, Science Guy.

Message from the Superintendent

Our National Park Service Centennial Celebration certainly lived up to expectation and then some. What a summer we had as chronicled in this edition of the *Notebook*. There were so many successful events and programs by our staff, volunteers, and partners it would be difficult to enumerate them all even if we expanded this publication multi-fold.

Suffice it to say our efforts and the Centennial / Find Your Park marketing campaign paid dividends with a strong 20% increase in visitors this summer matched by a similar increase in our museum store sales. Our programs and projects and those of our partners worked to put our park and the legacy of Thomas A. Edison in the regional, national, and international spotlight this summer.

Take for instance the Centennial "Park Exchange" program featuring Thomas Edison NHP at Brooklyn Bridge Park on August 22 during NPS Founder's Week. The program, one of only three such NPS events nationwide, brought Thomas Edison and our park to New York City and the theme of innovation and technology to new audiences. News coverage, both pre- and post-event, carried the message far and wide to virtually every corner of the globe in our multi-media connected world.

As we look to the coming months, we continue to offer fantastic Centennial programs and events which will keep our successful year going. I am so grateful to our dedicated, creative, innovative, and hardworking staff, volunteers, and partners who worked tirelessly to make our Centennial such a success so far. We are clearly stepping into our second century on the right foot! I look forward to seeing you around the park!

Sincerely,
Tom Ross

An EDGE Intern at Edison



Joe Ruffalo, Lizzie's liaison between the Park and the EDGE program, joins her in the Library.

Lizzie Miner, a student at Summit High School, spent the summer volunteering at Edison as part of EDGE NJ (Employment Development Guidance and Engagement). As an EDGE participant, Lizzie learned, in her own words, "independence skills to adapt to daily life as a visually impaired person." She pursued a busy program over the summer and later wrote us:

"I loved working at Thomas Edison National Historical Park. The fellow volunteers and rangers were all amazing and made me feel welcome. The experience was both fun and challenging at

times. I loved getting to develop my own program on the stock room and it was even more fun getting to present my knowledge to the public. At times it was hard dealing with the massive amount of people who would come into one section of the museum all at once, however it was never stressful and even at the busiest of times I still loved it. I truly felt welcome and always seemed to be at ease, I would love to come back and volunteer again."

In July a group of vision-impaired children participating in the BELL Academy (Braille Enrichment through Literacy and Learning) paid a visit to the Park, took a tour, and completed the Junior Ranger program.



While visiting with the BELL students, one of their adult companions was sworn in as a Junior Ranger by our Karen Sloat-Olsen.

Skype-ing Around the World

Ranger Carmen Pantaleo conducts many of our Skype visits with students in their classrooms. This picture was sent to us in mid-September by a class in Monto, Queensland, Australia, 9614 miles away from us and 14 hours ahead. It was 5:00pm Friday afternoon here and 7:00am Saturday morning there. Carmen can be seen on the monitor in the background. Last school year the Park conducted over 100 Skype sessions and contacted over 3500 students around the world. This year's schedule is already filling up.



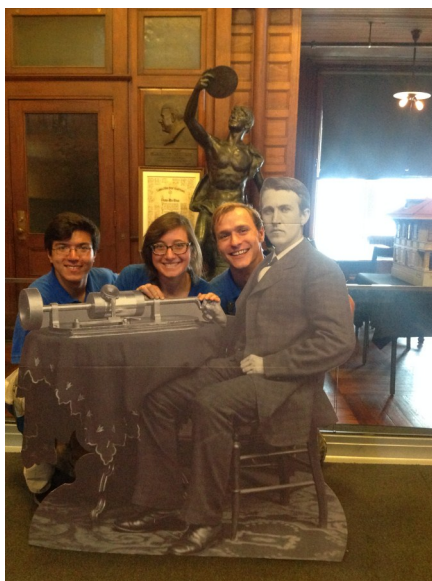
Our Busy Summer



Students from Seton Hall Prep School joined the Park staff for the twentieth anniversary year of this valuable partnership program. This year's interns were (left to right): Samed Cohen-Calloway, Jonathan Jenkins, Matthew Zamfirescu, Will Singer, and Malik Kosanovich.



The New Jersey Young Filmmakers Festival held its premiere, reception and awards ceremony (and enjoyed some cake) here at the Park on May 21.



This summer marked the first year the Park played host to members of the **Student Conservation Association**, which encourages the next generation of conservation leaders. They assisted the Interpretive Division and presented public programs throughout the Park. Scott Jung, Maddy Grupper, and Zack Biskup (left to right), joined Mr. Edison for a quick photo in the Library.

The Rutgers Master Gardeners of Essex County planted, pruned, weeded, and watered the canna flowerbed and foundation plantings behind the house, the oval flowerbed in front of it, and the wisteria over the portico. This summer they also started trimming and replanting the cutting gardens and the rose arbors in front of the greenhouse.



Friends of Thomas Edison NHP Hold “Spring Tune-Up” at Glenmont Garage

The Friends’ May event raised funds to preserve the two oil dispensers in the Glenmont Garage.





Members of the Ohio Congressional delegation pose with the statue of Edison.

Thomas Edison Enters the U.S. Capitol

A statue of Thomas Edison was dedicated at the U.S. Capitol in Washington on Wednesday, September 21. The 900 pound bronze statue of the inventor holding a light bulb was unveiled at the National Statuary Hall. Each state can display two notable figures in the hall; the state's other statue is of President James Garfield. (Oddly, both men have a New Jersey connection. Edison, of course, had his laboratories in Newark, Menlo Park, and West Orange; Garfield died in Elberon, New Jersey, in September 1881, ten weeks after being shot by an assassin.)

Ohio officials decided in 2010 to replace a statue of former Gov. William Allen, who supported Southern slave owners. Ohio voters chose Edison over other historical figures, such as aviation pioneers Wilbur and Orville Wright.

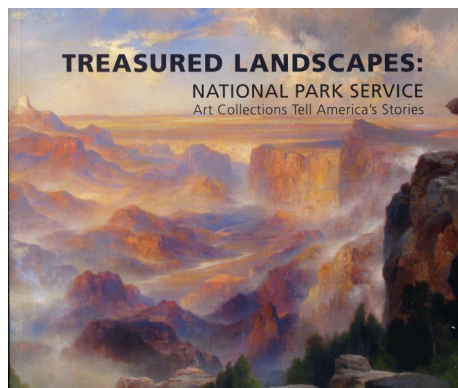
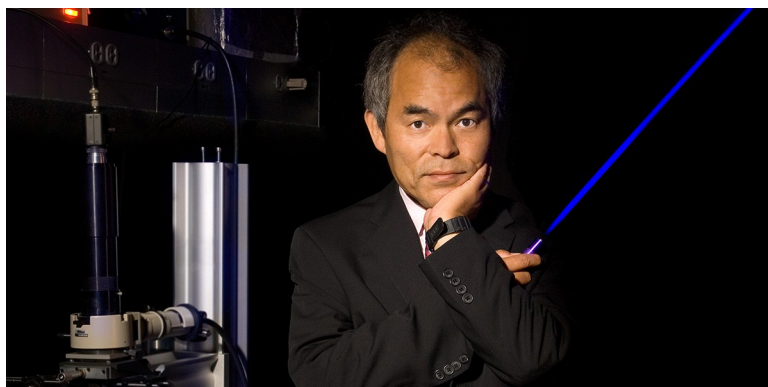


Nobel Prize Winner Visits Edison

Shuji Nakamura, a winner of the 2014 Nobel Prize in Physics, visited the Park in August. Nakamura, a professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara, shared the prize with others for their pioneering work on the LED (light-emitting diode) bulb that is more efficient and generates less heat than incandescent bulbs. Prior to his visit here Nakamura presented a lecture at Rutgers University titled "From Edison Light Bulb to Blue LED Lighting."



Showing the Nobel Prize winner around the Park were (from left) Archivist Lenny DeGraaf, Paul Israel, Director of *The Thomas A. Edison Papers*, Assistant Superintendent Terri Jung, Mr. Nakamura, and Sang-Wook Cheong, of the Rutgers Physics Department.



Just Published: *TREASURED LANDSCAPES: National Park Service Art Collections Tell America's Stories*. The NPS Museum Management Program collaborated with over 50 national parks to produce this book and a companion virtual exhibit in celebration of the NPS Centennial. The volume includes works of art from Glenmont (such as "Cattle and Landscape," by William Hart, ca. 1880, right). Several copies have been ordered for our Museum Shop and should arrive soon. Selected artworks will also be on exhibit on the Google Arts and Culture web site.



Did You See *EVERYTHING* on Edison Day?



Along Main Street.



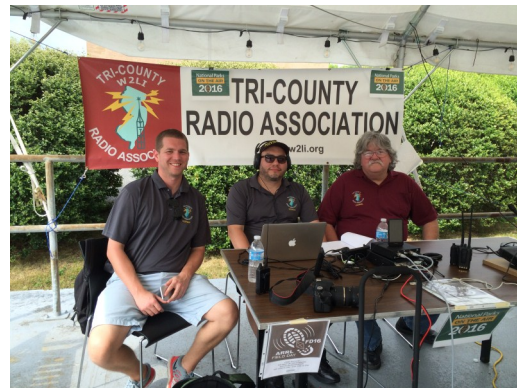
The National Park Service Centennial Band from New Orleans Jazz NHP makes a wax recording.



Tesla takes over Mr. Edison's courtyard..



Classic cars along Main Street.



Edison Day also means putting your brain to work. The HackNCraft NJ crew (left) challenged tinkerers and inventors. Members of the Northern New Jersey chapter of the American Chemical Society (center) planned to train young chemists. Tri-County Radio operators (right) established radio contact with NPS units around the country from the top of Vault 12.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Thomas Edison National Historical Park
211 Main Street
West Orange, NJ 07052

Thomas Edison National Historical Park was established to preserve and protect Thomas Alva Edison's West Orange Laboratory, home, and collections for the education and inspiration of people worldwide.

Thomas Edison National Historical Park
211 Main Street
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Web site: www.nps.gov/edis
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Visitor Information
973-736-0550 x11
Fax: 973-243-7172

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

Volunteers-In-Parks Coordinator Thomas Edison National Historical Park

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The Lab Notebook is a quarterly publication of Thomas Edison National Historical Park.

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Comments? Write to:

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Join us for the third **Muckers' Ball** on Saturday, October 1, from 5:30 to 9:00. Food will include selections from several local restaurants. There'll be music too. For more information visit the Friends' website www.foedison.org. As their announcement says, "No crowds, just us."

New Jersey National Parks Saluted at State Capitol

In late August an exhibit opened in the rotunda of the state capitol in Trenton commemorating the National Park Service's centennial. The exhibit highlights the five national park sites in the state: Thomas Edison National Historical Park (NHP), Morristown NHP, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Gateway National Recreation Area, and Paterson Great Falls NHP. Exhibit cases feature artifacts from the Parks' museum collections. A talking doll and a cylinder recording represent the hundreds of thousands of objects at Edison.



NPS staff from the five Park Service units around the state smile for the photographer at the opening in Trenton.



Park Recognizes Volunteers at Annual Picnic

The Park picnic in August offered burgers, hot dogs, chips, AND the annual acknowledgment of our volunteers' contributions. Above, the volunteers, some with certificates noting their volunteer hours, pose atop Vault 12. Superintendent Tom Ross is at left. At right is Abby Parsons, the Centennial Volunteer Ambassador for Thomas Edison and Morristown NHPs. She is busy promoting and expanding our volunteer base during the centennial.